



University  
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination  
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

**JONATHAN FAERBER**

BA (University of Alberta, 2013)

**“Unbelievable Doubts (and other Skeptical Discoveries)”**

Department of Philosophy

Thursday, April 27, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B215

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Scott Woodcock, Department of Philosophy, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Colin Macleod, Department of Philosophy, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Ulrich Mueller, Department of Psychology, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Barbara Hawkins, Department of Biology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

## **Abstract**

Moral skeptics sometimes argue that science is at odds with morality. Some arguments privilege scientific explanations of moral belief at the expense of objective moral knowledge. More specifically, since biological processes select for morality as a cognitive characteristic, Richard Joyce and Sharon Street doubt the justification and objective truth of moral belief, respectively. This thesis defends objective normative facts from this empirical problem. Reasons for moral skepticism are not compatible with arguments against objective normativity. Put simply, without objective normativity, skeptics have no ultimate reason to doubt anything in particular, moral or otherwise. So, on pain of incoherence, moral skeptics should doubt the truth, rather than objective normativity, of moral belief.